



United States Department of the Interior  
OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
SOL-2018-00246

May 17, 2019

Via Email: 59878-84407480@requests.muckrock.com

MuckRock  
DEPT MR 59878  
Attn: Jimmy Tobias  
411A Highland Avenue  
Somerville, MA 02144-2516

Dear Mr. Tobias,

On August 23, 2018, the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of the Solicitor, received your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request. In your request, you specifically ask for:

Any and all written and electronic correspondence, including attachments, concerning Principal Deputy Solicitor Dan Jorjani's meetings with any employees or representatives of the mining firm Twin Metals Minnesota at any point since May 15, 2017. This request also seeks documents brought to meetings involving Mr. Jorjani and Twin Metals Minnesota, copies of any documents describing the substance and contents of any of these meetings, & copies of any emails related to any such meetings.

In processing your request, the Office of the Solicitor searched its records and found 278 pages of responsive documents. Upon review, 30 pages are being released in full, and 248 pages are being released in part. The pages being released in part were redacted pursuant to Exemption 5 government commercial information privilege, and Exemption 6 personal privacy interests. Please see the documents attached.

**Government Commercial Information Privilege**

We are redacting pages under Exemption 5, the Government Commercial Information Privilege, because those pages contain conference call-in numbers and passcodes. Release of the conference call-in numbers and passcodes to the general public would enable any member of the public to call in and listen to communications on that call-in line, rendering the call-in line useless and requiring the Department to purchase a new replacement call-in line.

**Personnel and Medical Files**

Exemption 6 allows an agency to withhold "personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy." 5 U.S.C.

§ 552(b)(6).

The phrase “similar files” covers any agency records containing information about a particular individual that can be identified as applying to that individual. To determine whether releasing records containing information about a particular individual would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, we are required to balance the privacy interest that would be affected by disclosure against any public interest in the information.

Under the FOIA, the only relevant public interest to consider under the exemption is the extent to which the information sought would shed light on an agency’s performance of its statutory duties or otherwise let citizens ‘know what their government is up to. The burden is on the requester to establish that disclosure would serve the public interest. When the privacy interest at stake and the public interest in disclosure have been determined, the two competing interests must be weighed against one another to determine which is the greater result of disclosure: the harm to personal privacy or the benefit to the public. The purposes for which the request for information is made do not impact this balancing test, as a release of information requested under the FOIA constitutes a release to the general public.

The information that has been withheld under Exemption 6 consists of personal mobile phone numbers; personal email addresses; and internal facing email addresses, the disclosure of which would compromise the use of the address for internal agency business, and we have determined that the individuals to whom this information pertain have a substantial privacy interest in withholding it.

This concludes the Office of the Solicitor’s response to your request. If you have any questions, please contact Attorney-Advisor Tony Irish by phone at (202) 208-5065 or email: [tony.irish@sol.doi.gov](mailto:tony.irish@sol.doi.gov).

Sincerely,



Lance Purvis  
Office of the Solicitor FOIA Officer